



Searching for 'Signs'?

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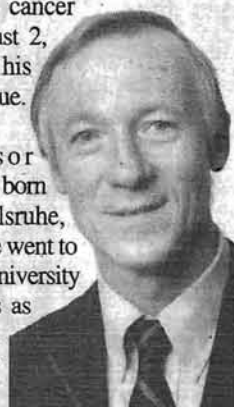
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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Sociology Professor Etzkorn dies at 70

Professor K. Peter Etkorn, professor emeritus of sociology and a former associate dean at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, died of cancer Friday, August 2, 2002, at his home in Ladue. He was 70.

Professor Etkorn was born in Karlsruhe, Germany. He went to Ohio State University in Columbus as an exchange student after World War II.



Dr. K. Peter Etkorn

He completed his bachelor of arts degree there and later earned a master of arts and a doctorate in economics from Princeton University.

Professor Etkorn taught at several universities before coming to UM-St. Louis in 1969, when he was hired as a department chairman and professor of sociology and anthropology.

He taught sociology at the university for more than 33 years and also was associate dean of the graduate school and director of research. He retired in 2000.

Professor Etkorn was a lover of classical music who concentrated his research career on ethnomusicology, the study of music and its social implications. He also wrote and edited several publications on the sociology of music and edited the Ethnomusicology Journal.

He was past president of the New Music Circle and played piano in weekly informal sessions with friends. He also helped found a classical chamber music series at the university.

Professor Etkorn was a Fulbright Professor in Vienna, Austria, and a Richard Merton Visiting Professor in Munster, Germany.

In the early 1960s, he was a visiting professor at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. From 1995 to 2002, Professor Etkorn was president of Mediact, International Research Institute for Media, Communication and Cultural Development, in Vienna.

Professor Etkorn was a former board member of the national board of Sister Cities International and St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities.

He was the 1978 chairman of the St. Louis Sister Cities National Convention. He had planned to be chairman of next year's convention until he withdrew due to illness.

In 1984, he was awarded the Order of Merit, First Class, of West Germany.

Professor Etkorn was a board member of the St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

A memorial service is planned for 3 p.m. Aug. 24, 2002, at Ambruster-Donnelly Mortuary, 6633 Clayton Road.

Among survivors are his wife, Hildy Garve Etkorn of Ladue; two sons, Dr. Kyle P. Etkorn of Ponte Vedra, Fla., and Lars Etkorn of Washington; a sister, Helga Etkorn of Karlsruhe; and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 8770 Manchester Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63144.

UMSL softball head coach Boneé resigns

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

With a 4-1 loss in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament on May 3, the UM-St. Louis softball team ended their season with a 31-25 overall record and an 8-10 GLVC conference record. With that finish, Head Coach Lesa Boneé's career record with the Riverwomen went to 90-67.

Effective Thursday, Aug. 15, Boneé, "due to the fact that the position went part-time," resigned as softball Head Coach. This comes subsequent to the Athletic Department's June 21 notification that three full-time coaching positions—baseball (Head Coach Jim Brady, 30-21 record in 2002), softball and

volleyball (Head Coach Denise Silvester, 14-17 in 201)—were shifting into part-time positions without benefits. The Athletic Department cited the trickle-down effect of the UM system's recent budget cuts as the main reason for the change.

"Not only are we talking about a major reduction in moneys, we're talking about no benefits, and you have to have benefits," Boneé said. "I'm very disappointed in that the administration chose to do that. I do not think it was a good decision, and we were notified very late, I think."

Boneé feels that there could have been other areas from which to cut.

"I know there's budget cuts, but I don't think they gave everything they could and looked at all their options," Boneé said. "They're going to tell you they did, but I don't believe they did. I don't believe they looked at all their options or ways of making it work.... You're going to reduce three head coaches but yet leave all the assistants the same. There's a lot of things going on, but I don't think the administration made a conscious effort in trying to look at other options. That's my own personal and professional opinion."

Boneé said that her team, which has been beneficial to the University and to the community, will suffer due

to the financial move.

"We performed on the field, off the field," Boneé said. "We were involved in community service. The softball program now has a good reputation that, not only are they a good academic school, that's a good softball program."

"Now we're beginning to get the good student athlete that's local [and] will look at us; whereas before, we weren't a viable option. Now we are, and taking your coach and reducing them to part-time; that's going to hurt the program. There is no doubt that's going to hurt the program."

Athletic Director Pat Dolan said that the University did everything that it could to make certain that the Athletic Department was not substantially harmed. According to

Dolan, sports such as soccer and basketball took priority over the department's other programs.

"We could've cut the sports medicine, or we could've cut the athletic director,"

Dolan said. "It was just a decision of programs. The league is basketball, so we need to protect basketball. Soccer in St. Louis is so powerful [that] we didn't want to affect that. We didn't want to touch scholarships."

"We can't affect the building because we can't shut the building down. Some things were a given," Dolan continued. "I could've taken in from scholarships, but I didn't want to affect the student athletes. That was a debate. We could've eliminated assistant coaches, but you would dilute the program even more. It's painful. It's very, very difficult."

As for now, no more major changes in the Athletic Department are imminent, but more could be on the way if cuts continue to trickle down from the UM system.

"Nobody wants to go through this," Dolan said. "Administrators don't want to go through it. Employees don't want to go through it. Students don't want to go through it. It's just hard times.... I wish the state legislature would have more respect for higher education and not keep cutting us away, but I may be thinking on my own with that."

I know there's budget cuts, but I don't think they gave everything they could.

Summer Commencement includes somber speech



Mike Sherwin/The Current

On Sunday, August 11, summer graduates joined nearly 62,000 UM-St. Louis alumni. Associate Professor of Anthropology Van Reidhead was the Master of Ceremonies for the event, which was held at 3 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building.

This summer's commencement speaker, Lawrence Barton, began his address by informing the crowd that there would be "no jokes" during his speech.

"I am going to talk about something quite serious," Barton said. "The value of your degree depends on the reputation of the institution."

Barton, professor of Chemistry and

Biochemistry at UM-St. Louis, asked the graduates to help continue to make the reputation of UM-St. Louis grow as they leave the University and make the transition into the work force.

Other serious matters that Barton addressed were state funding cuts that have threatened layoffs and early retirements, and the inequitable allocation of funds in the UM system.

"UM-St. Louis' share of the UM budget has remained 12 percent over the last 20 years," Barton said.

"The Board of Curators needs to implement a plan for equitable funding across the campuses."

Which life is for you?

BY JOSH BASHARA
U. Nebraska-Omaha

(U-WIRE) OMAHA, Neb. - It's one of the oldest obstacles in the history of higher education. It's been the downfall of college students across the board, from freshmen to seniors. It has many guises and more often than not it strikes the killing blow before you ever see it coming. No matter what the circumstance, the outcome remains the same: If you let your social life dwarf your school life, you're doomed to fail.

Although a problem for all students, freshmen seem to have a higher risk of letting their studies slip out from under them.

When you graduate from high school, there is a sense of freedom and accomplishment that will rival any other for the rest of your life. Many

students express this newfound independence with partying throughout the summer after graduation. When fall comes around and it's time to start college, many students never quite descend from that level of revelry.

Holding on to the same sleeping and social habits from summer, students eventually realize—often too late—what it takes to succeed in college.

Waking up at the crack of noon definitely isn't it. A huge (and grossly underrated) factor in going to school is actually GOING to school. Lots of freshmen hear stories about the independent nature of college. One of the biggest misconceptions about college life is that you don't have to go to class.

Sure, you don't have to go. No one is going to give you a detention or

reprimand you in any way—the school will be happy to take your money either way. To actually pass a class, though, you have to start by at least showing up. There are some professors and departments that even require you not to miss a certain number of days or points will be taken off your final grade.

"Just go to class," Mike Skinner, a senior at the University of Nebraska-Omaha says. "Go to all your classes and just take notes, you'll do fine."

It's tempting to go to bed at 4 a.m. and not wake up until noon, but almost any second-year student or older will tell you the most important thing in passing is to show up to class. Even if your first class starts at 1 p.m., it's a good idea to wake up relatively early and come to school — this gives you time to study and helps make sure you'll get to class on time.

Juggling work and school can be a difficult game in itself, especially if you're one of those unlucky souls who has to work and attend school both full-time. Add in a vibrant social life and you're probably down to three hours of sleep a night.

So what to do? You want to have fun while you're in college, but you also don't want to graduate an eighth-year senior.

Senior Nick Benton says there is only one answer: "One or the other, either don't study or don't have a social life. There's no gray area."

Another possible solution lies in prioritization.

You have to be able to have the self-discipline to judge what you can and can't get away with. Sure, it'd be fun to go out with your friends tonight and party, but with an exam two days away, do you really think it's the best

idea? The same principle goes for times even when you might not have any exams right around the corner. Your teachers tell you to study for a reason, and it isn't necessarily to keep you unnecessarily busy (well, not all the time).

There's a happy medium in every situation; the trick is finding yours. Some students actually prefer not to go out on weeknights because it makes the weekend and infrequent special-occasions even more enjoyable. After all, where's the fun in a snow day from school if you never go in the first place? The same goes for holidays and spring break. You learn to limit yourself and the rewards grow much greater.

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Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:
 The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Editor's Desk, 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, or fax 516-6811.
 All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

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Corrections

In issue 1053, Chris Brown was identified in his "Letter to the Editor" as the president of College Republicans. While he was serving in that office at the time of publication, Brown insists that he did not submit the letter as an official member of the group.

In issue 1056, Rachel Sommerer, counselor in Student Support Services, was not given credit for her article "What to do when" on A11.

August
Tues 20
College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences would like to welcome new students whose majors are in Arts and Sciences. The dean, department chairs and faculty will be present. The event will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Century Room of the Millennium Student Center. For more information, contact Grace Derda at x5007. This event is free.

Wed 21
Student Activities

Today begins "Welcome Week" hosted by Student Activities. A local band will perform during Wednesday Noon Live from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Pilot House.

Wed 21 (cont.)
Classes begin 8 a.m.

21-22
Undergraduate Education Office

There will be an undergraduate education social from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in the lobby of Marillac Hall. The ice cream treats are free. The event is being sponsored by the the Undergraduate Education Office.

Thur 22
Student Activities

Beat the heat with your favorite administrators while enjoying a free shaved ice! The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Bridge.

Fri 23
Student Activities

"UMSL Fear Factor" will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the University Meadows. There will be free food and music by Q95's DJ Charlie Chan. Students can make their own music videos. There will be the first Mr. and Mrs. UMSL Swimsuit Contest, and students can compete in UMSL's own "Fear Factor."

23
Sorority Recruitment

Sorority recruitment is open to all females attending UMSL who are interested in joining a sorority. The event will be held in the Pilot House of the MSC at 4 p.m. The cost after August 8 is \$20 and includes a t-shirt and food. For more information contact Michelle Roth at 4028.

Sat 24
Multicultural Relations

A "Guaranteed 4.0 Seminar" will be held at 1 p.m. today in room 118 of the Social Sciences Building. The event is free.

Mon 26
Student Activities

A "Psychic Fair" will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in The Nosh, 104.1 The Mall will be at the event. Students can come and listen to music and have their fortune told or their caricature drawn.

Tues 27
Student Activities

REC SPORTS DAY. Hole-in-one, free throw contest, dunking booths and a climbing wall will be set up in The Nosh from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be free cotton candy and popcorn available.

Tues 27 (cont.)
Fraternities

Fraternity recruitment begins today with informational tables set up in the Century Rooms of the MSC throughout the day.

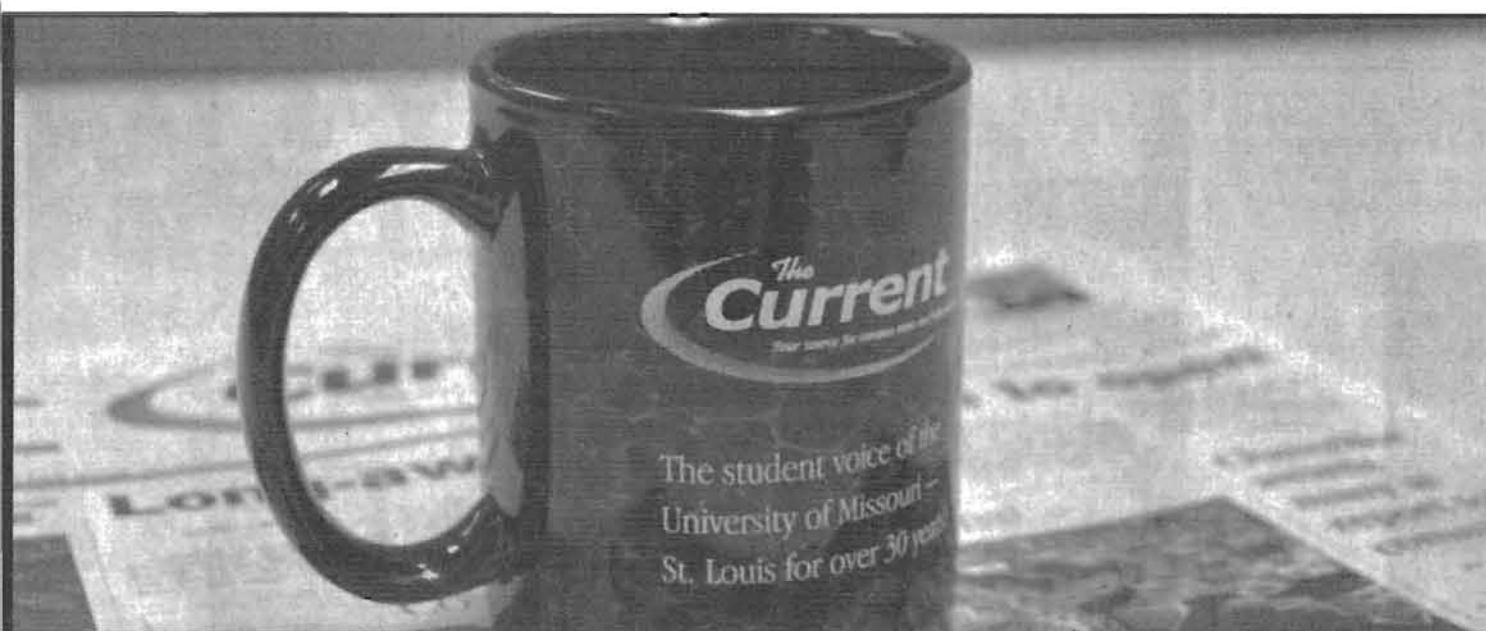
Wed 28
Student National Education Association

A "Psychic Fair" will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in The Nosh, 104.1 The Mall will be at the event. Students can listen to music and have their fortune told or their caricature drawn.

Student Activities

EXPO will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center. Students can get information on campus organizations and departments. A picnic will be held in the MSC from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Put it on the Board! Place your event on The Board in our upcoming edition; restrictions apply. Call 516-5174 for information.



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Please call (314) 516-6534 or email LauraBarnesOD@hotmail.com for information and other eligibility requirements.



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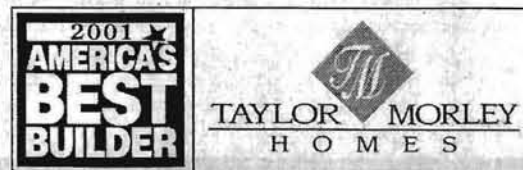
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Welcome Week

Brings more life to campus

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Staff Writer

"The Welcome Week began about five to six years ago with the Welcome Back Picnic. Its main purpose is to highlight the activities that UMSL offers and to bring new students together," Deni Kheil, Student Services Advisor Staff for Student Activities, said.

The Ships Ahoy Picnic kicked off the festivities on Sunday evening in the Millennium Student Center. Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill encouraged all ages to attend. A buffet of local St. Louis food was served. Entertainment included a petting zoo, clowns, face painting, pony rides and music by the band Dangerous Kitchen.

On Wednesday, Aug. 21, between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., the Pilot House will host a local band for live entertainment. Students and faculty can take a break, catch up with friends or eat lunch while listening to this performance.

The activities continue on Thursday, Aug. 22, when students are invited to enjoy shaved ice with the administrators. People interested in this activity can meet at the bridge of the Millennium Student Center to receive their cool summer treat while walking to classes or across campus.

On Friday, August 23, the annual beach party at University Meadows will include many activities, such as free food, music, a swimsuit contest and a mock-version of the game show "Fear Factor." The party begins at 7 p.m. and will last until 11 p.m.

Some people may prefer to attend the psychic fair on Monday, August 26, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. People can talk with psychics about their fortunes and get their palms read by a palmist. An artist will also be available to paint caricatures.

People can show off their muscles or athletic abilities by attending the Recreational Sports Day on Tuesday, August 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Many different tables and leisure booths will be set up at the Nosh, and there will be a climbing wall, hole-in-one golf and free-throw games.

'It's main purpose is to highlight the activities that UM-St. Louis offers and to bring new students together.'

—Student Activities Staff Member
Demi Kheil

The annual Expo ends the celebration of Welcome Week. It's a time for campus organizations to show off in an effort to get new members. Groups from various organizations will be there to answer questions and help students decide which of the numerous organizations they should join.

Look for *The Current's* booth at Expo 2002.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Welcome Week, sponsored by Student Activities, kicked off with a "Ships Ahoy Picnic" on Sunday, August 18. The picnic was held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Millennium Student Center.

For a calendar of these and other events, see the Bulletin Board on page 2.

FRATERNITIES

EDITOR

WE NEED ONE
Features Editor

phone: 516-4886
fax: 516-6811

Fraternities begin formal rush for first year

BY ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

In the past, UM-St. Louis fraternity members have sought new recruits through hosting parties and events at the fraternity houses and by passing out flyers around campus. For the first time, beginning this fall, UM-St. Louis fraternities will have formal recruitments.

In a formal recruitment, the school is there every step of the way. There will be official bidding, with school officials overseeing the process from start to finish," Sigma Tau Gamma President Colin Post said.

The two fraternities on campus that are recognized by the University are Sigma Pi and Sigma Tau Gamma. Seeking a formal recruitment program, the fraternities contacted University Meadows Director and Interim Greek Advisor John Klein.

Last semester they came to us and asked for a more structured recruitment policy," Klein said.

Following this action, the fraternities restructured the recruitment process as a five day program from Tuesday, August 27, through Sunday, September 1.

see FRATERNITIES, page 9

Career Services assist students, alumni with jobs

BY ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

Career Services assists current UM-St. Louis students and alumni in developing and improving their job search strategies in a number of ways.

"Our Career Specialists help students and alumni with their resumes and interviewing skills and also provide information about the job market," Career Specialist Emily McEneny said.

Workshops are offered throughout the year covering such topics as resume writing, interviewing skills, self-marketing, networking and how to use these services, among other topics.

These sessions generally last one hour and are offered bi-weekly in the Career Services office, room 327 of the Millennium Student Center. The workshops are free to current UM-St. Louis students and alumni.

Students and alumni in search of a job can register for these services and post resumes in the Career Services Candidate Database. The database matches a prospective employee's qualifications and experience with job vacancy listings. Once a match is made, the student's resume is sent to the employer.

"Students can come to the office and register. There is a \$35 charge for a full calendar year, and it takes 24 hours for the account to be activated," McEneny said.

Furthermore, Career Services has three career specialists to assist students. Students and alumni are placed in one of three divisions based on their major and what type of job or internship they desire.

In addition to workshops, Career Services offers three different programs. First, is the "Steps to Career Success," service for current students. This

program is designed to allow current students to begin building their career portfolio and receive help in choosing a career-related job while they are still in school.

Second, is the "Career Experience and Employment Program," which allows students to experience their career choice through co-ops and internships. Third, the "Career Assistance Program" assists students with career management decisions, career transitions and job change questions.

Another aspect of Career Services is the Career Media Center, which offers a variety of occupation and employment information to help students find the jobs that best meet their needs.

Though McEneny says most students who come to the service for help are graduating seniors or alumni, Career Services can help other students who wish to learn more about improving their job-search strategies.

Career Services walk-in hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For a personal appointment call (314) 516-5111.

Career Services offers

Help finding jobs and internships

Information about the job market

Workshops on

- résumé writing
- interviewing skills
- self-marketing
- networking
- how to use their services

Other services include

- Career Media Center
- Candidate Database



Sara Quiroz/ The Current

Jill Berkbuegler, a student who works for Gallery 210, makes sure the artwork she is installing is perfectly level. The exhibit is titled "The Distant Relatives of Johnny Naugahyde" and will be open August 22 through September 28.

Art - A family affair Gallery 210 Season Opener

BY MICHELLE ELKINS
Staff Writer

A treasure of the UM-St. Louis campus, Gallery 210 begins its 2002-2003 exhibition season with "The Distant Relatives of Johnny Naugahyde." A Kansas City, Missouri native, artist Mark Spencer's work is relatively small in scale, composed of collected readily available materials adorned with decorative and colorful splashes of faux wood grain, chair caning, patterns, letterforms and monochromatic washes of color. The artist invents a family tree covering a century and a half of an extended family, exploring themes of love, death, regret, connection and letting go.

Featuring a variety of imagery

from media sources such as posters, advertisements, postcards, greeting cards, comic books and parody publications

"Distant Relatives" is a visual narrative of an imaginary family from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

like "The Onion," along with the art of H.C. Westermann, William Wiley, William Wegman and

Pablo Picasso and language snippets from overheard conversations and remembered phrases of original borrowed or edited passages. "Distant Relatives" is a visual narrative of an imaginary family from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. References are made to bootlegging, lumberjacks, international travel and domestic bliss.

The exhibit will be on display from August 22 to September 28. An artist's reception will take place at the Gallery September 5 at 4:30 p.m. Gallery 210 is located on the second floor of Lucas Hall, with operating hours of 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The exhibit is supported by the Regional Arts Commission, the Missouri Arts Council and the Center for Humanities.

R-men ready to play ball

UMSL looks to finish in better positioning than last season, hopes to rank among GLVC's best

UM-St. Louis Rivermen Soccer

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

In his second season as UM-St. Louis men's soccer Head Coach, Dan King has a challenge ahead of him. He will have to prove that his team can come back from a 5-10-2 overall record and 1-7-2 conference finish. His team has to form a nucleus, a hybrid of returning stars and new upcoming talent, which can power the team through a season of stiff competition.

King has already accepted that challenge and looks for his team to shine in the 2002 season.

"I'm looking forward to the guys to click a little earlier than they did last year," King said. "This is a very hard working team. The one thing that never wavered last year was their work ethic."

That work ethic is what King is counting on and is what he feels will be key in the success of his team.

"This team knows how to work hard and if you continue to work hard, good things happen, so I'm looking for the positive of their hard work to pay off. We had a very good off-season. They

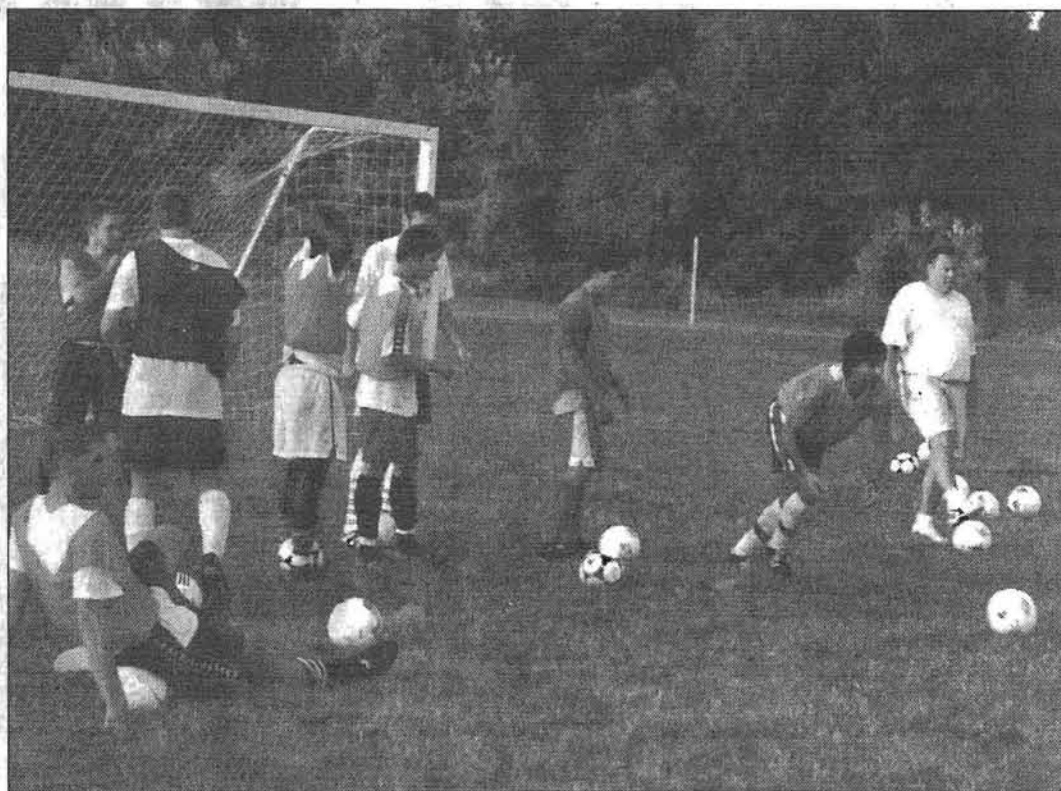
had a weight program everyone stuck to, so I'm looking for their hard work to pay off with victories."

King's hopes and predictions for this season do have some weight to them. Among the returning starters for the '02 Rivermen squad is Defender Pat Shelton, who has already had much experience playing under King at St. Thomas Aquinas High School and St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley. In addition, Shelton started all 17 games for the Rivermen last season.

"Pat Shelton, number one, will be very key," King said. "He's a very steady player. I've had him for four years, almost six years I believe, because I had him two years in high school, before I went to Flo Valley. I had him there. I've known Pat a long time. He's a very sturdy player."

Offensively, the Rivermen will be lead by midfielder Jeff Stegman, who was third on the '02 Rivermen squad in the points category with 7 and in goals with 3.

Stegman will be up front for us and I think he's going to come out and have a good year. "I think he is one of the players on our team, that is very good one-on-one offensively that could play a good player down and go to goal," King said. "He's very sneaky, savvy up front where he can steal the ball. He knows sometimes where that ball's going and he picks on backs that are



An UMSL defender, right, sets up a shot while his teammates and Head Coach Dan King, far right, look on.

Kevin Otley/The Current

weak. That's why we like him up there."

Midfielder Nick Carron, who scored 3 goals and had 6 points, will also play an important role on the Rivermen offensive front. Newcomer David Walters, who scored a single-season record 31 goals for Ritenour High

School in 2001, will also be a vital component of the offense.

King's team will have a surplus of goalies this season. Goalkeepers Brad Bensen, Adam Barnstead and Campbell McLaurin will each vie for the starting position in goal.

"My experience leads me that you

sometimes need more than two goalies and you definitely need more than one," King said. "Like last year, Mike Brockman broke his leg and he was our starter, so goalies are hot and cold. So, you need more than one of them and you need goalies to challenge each other."



Mike Sherwin/The Current

R-women hope to again finish near top of GLVC

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Soccer

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

Following a season in which they finished with a 13-5-1 overall record and 7-2-1 in Great Lakes Valley play, the UM-St. Louis women's soccer team is looking to take their game to the next level. Head Coach Beth Goetz feels that her squad has what it takes to rank among the top teams in the conference.

"I don't see any reason why we would accept anything less than striving to finish where we were not only before, but farther than we did last year," Goetz said. "We have a large corps of returning starters, maybe not large number-wise, but definitely they all had a lot of talent on the field and contributed. With some of the young kids we have coming in and some of the talent that they're going to bring to the team, I think that we'll be able to step it up a notch."

In order to become one of the top teams in the conference, the team will need to learn from and improve upon the weaknesses of last season.

"I think, overall, we needed to have a little bit more team speed than we did last year," Goetz said. "I think we need to make sure we get some more goal scorers and improve the kids that we have so that they can contribute a little bit more that way."

While some kinks still need to be worked out, the Riverwomen seem to have a tad more talent than last

year's squad.

"The kids came in really fit, which is definitely a good place to start," Goetz said. "We have a lot of new kids, a lot of new freshmen, so sometimes you have problems as far as gelling and playing together. I think, at this point in time, this is the best they've played together."

"They seem to read each other really well. We have a lot more team speed than we've had in the past. Technically we've stepped it up a little from top to bottom, as far as individual ball skills, so I think those things will help."

Among the team's returning starters is senior midfielder Lindsay Jones, who put up 12 total points, 5 goals and 2 assists for the Riverwomen.

"She's our solid central midfielder," Goetz said. "She's the heart and grit of the team. She works hard and sets the pace for the rest of the crew."

Senior forward Lindsey Siemens, who led the Riverwomen in all offensive categories - 13 goals, 7 assists, 33 points - is also returning for a final season with the team.

With a strong, returning offensive corps, Goetz is confident about this season. And, looking back on last season, Goetz feels that the successful season was beneficial to the players who experienced it.

"It had been the most success we've seen in my tenure here," Goetz said. "We thought we had a lot more talent than we had in the past. We won a few big games and we were close. It was nice to have a little bit of a taste of getting close to that conference title. We knew what we still needed to work on and learned a little bit from all of it, as well."

AVCA recognizes v-ball squad; team filled with returning stars

UM-St. Louis Riverwomen Volleyball

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

Being a successful athlete is obviously a paramount to UM-St. Louis Athletics. But, probably of equal or greater importance is the successful athlete who is also a successful student. This is a facet of college athletics in which many athletes at UM-St. Louis strive for excellence. And, among the teams at UM-St. Louis, the volleyball team is one that has received national recognition for its academic endeavors. For the second year in a row, the team received the American Volleyball Coaches Association/Molten Team Academic Award, attaining a 3.43 team grade point average last season. The team is ranked seventh in the NCAA Division II and is among 20 other recognized teams.

With the success her team has achieved off the court, Head Coach Denise Silvester hopes for the same level of success on the court.

"We gelled well off the volleyball court," Silvester said. "That always has positive effects on the volleyball court. The girls worked very hard in practice.

They had set some high goals for themselves that they worked to achieve and when you work towards goals and you can keep everyone focused on that, I think it always leads to having success."

With a large majority of the team returning, Silvester is very confident in her team's ability to improve upon their

new players, getting them oriented to college volleyball and to college and to being away from home," Silvester said. "That's a big adjustment. So I think we'll be able to start preseason a little bit stronger, because we have so many returning players. Once again we only have one senior on the squad this year. Janae Paas is the only senior, so the next couple years things look pretty positive."

Several important players will lead the Riverwomen this season, including setters Paas and Stacy Pearl.

"Janae and Stacy are good team leaders," Silvester said. "Janae leads by example. She's probably the most fit athlete we have on the team. Stacy's very calm and composed and when things get frenzied, she has a capability of keeping everybody calm which is what you need to be when you're in competition."

Outside hitter Kathy Freeman and middle hitter Melissa Frost will also play major roles in the success of the team.

"Kathy Freeman was an excellent blocker for us," Silvester said. "She was a definite threat in stopping to other team's offensive attack. Melissa Frost did a nice job offensively for us. Obviously Holly [Zrout] won't be back this season, but all the rest of the girls will be back and we look forward to coming back with a good nucleus this upcoming year."



Kevin Otley/The Current

14-17 overall record and 7-8 conference record of last season.

"Our nucleus is back from last year, so we will be able to start preseason ahead of the game where we would be teaching new players, as with many

SPORTS SHORTS

UMSL Cheerleading tryouts coming soon

UM-St. Louis' Cheerleading team has tryouts set for 5:30 - 9 p.m. on Sept. 12 and 13 and starting at 10 a.m. on Sept. 14. The tryouts will be held in the Mark Twain Rec. Complex. Requirements are:

1. Completed physical,
 2. Most recent report card,
 3. Squad Guidelines Form received at first day of tryouts,
 4. Stunts if you know any,
 5. Tumbling,
 6. The performance
 7. Personal Interview
- Contact Laura Partridge at 516-6446 or Shae Williams at 672-3211 with any questions on the tryouts.

Cheerleading team claims award at camp

The UM-St. Louis cheer squad participated in a recent national cheerleading camp, the Universal Cheerleading Association camp held on Aug. 2-4 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn., and came away with one of the top awards at the camp. The squad was awarded the Superior Trophy, the highest award possible for the competing teams.

The squad is in its second season since being reinstated just before last season. Members are Megan Bagley, Ashley Chambers, Aaron Costello, Riannon Grimsbo, Amand Kreiter, Danielle Proulx, Robert Ross, Natalie Shaffer and Colleen Songer.

Varsity M Reunion to be held in September

Mizzou football will be having its Varsity M Reunion game vs. Troy State at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28 at Mizzou. Members of Varsity M and their guests are also invited to purchase tickets to attend a pregame tailgate party located in front of Mizzou's Taylor Building. The pregame event will be held two hours prior to kickoff.

Ticket orders received the week of the game will be placed at will call at the North gates of Mizzou's Faurot Field. The person whose name is on the order form must pick up the tickets at will call and present a photo ID. For more information, including ticket prices, call 573 882-0710.

Do unto one side of the equation as you do unto the other

With Missouri's budget shortfalls, the UM system was forced to make cutbacks to its overall budget. This of course led to cutbacks in many important programs at UM-St. Louis. The cutbacks were done out of necessity and, as many UM-St. Louis administrators will say, they were very difficult to make. However, a few questionable cutbacks were made in the Athletic Department.

Three full-time head coaching positions of extremely successful programs - baseball, softball and volleyball - became part-time without benefits. These were the only cutbacks in coaching positions the department made and other programs have yet to be affected. This led softball Head Coach Lesa Bonee, one of the most successful coaches in the program's history, to

make the decision to resign her post. So, not only are three thriving and very important programs rewarded with major cutbacks, one



of those programs will be without the leadership of one of the most victorious coaches in UM-St.

Louis history.

Let's get something straight here. It is easy to assume that the Athletic Department, in conjunction with the administration above it, simply made the decisions that it had to make to insure that the department would not be crippled. It is much more difficult, however, to question those judgments and ask for specific reasons for the decision. It is difficult to believe and to admit that something in the department's decision making process has gone terribly wrong.

Three successful sports programs have just suffered major cutbacks and other major teams, that made much less of an impact in their respective conferences, are left almost completely intact. All the options may have been looked at, but were not regarded as

much as they should have been.

I will admit that I am a baseball statesman and an ambassador from the diamond. However, I am also an ambassador of the sports world and respect all sports. I feel that there is something important to be learned from every sport. If I had my way, every sport would be available to everyone on this planet. I feel the same way about the different programs the UM-St. Louis Athletic Department has to offer.

Each sport is important in some way. If three major programs take hits, it is only fair that other major programs do. Sure, right now there would be several more understandably disgruntled coaches and staffs, but conversely I almost certainly would not be discussing the resignation of one great coach.

SPORTS

EDITOR

HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

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COMING UP

Soccer Aug. 21

Men - 8:15 p.m. vs. Missouri Baptist at Soccer Park in St. Louis [Exhibition]

Women - 5:30 p.m. vs. Missouri Baptist at Soccer Park in St. Louis [Exhibition]

25

Men - 5 p.m. at SLCC - Flo Valley [Exhibition]

26

Women - 5 p.m. vs. McKendree at UM-St. Louis [Exhibition]

Volleyball Aug. 30-31

at Alabama Huntsville Tournament in Huntsville, Alabama [time to be announced]

Rec Sports Aug. 27

Rec Sports Day - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Millenium Student Center

Sept. 9 - Oct. 9

Volleyball - 7-10 p.m. at Mark Twain Center Gym

SEE PAGE 8 FOR MORE SPORTS

WEB

www.umsl.edu/services/athletics



THE ABCS OF SPORTS

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MOVIE REVIEW

Sense of 'Sixth Sense' missing from 'Signs'

CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Film Critic

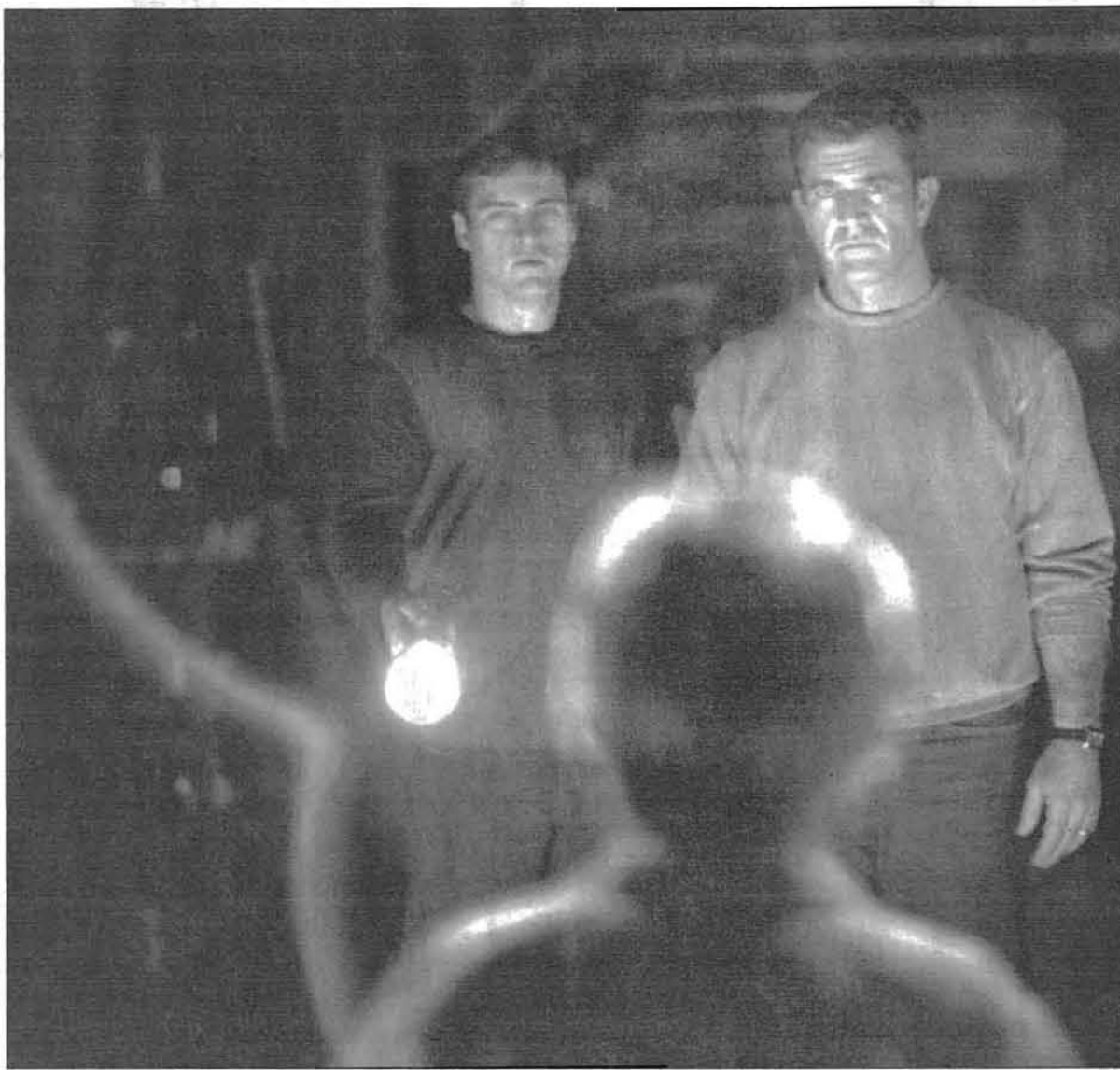
★★★ out of five stars

"Signs," the new film by M. Night Shyamalan, the director of the surprise hit of a few years back "The Sixth Sense," is trying for another summer blockbuster. But "Signs" is as hit-and-miss as an inconsistent batter at the plate.

In "Signs," Mel Gibson plays Graham Hess, a widowed father and ex-minister struggling with the loss of both his wife and his faith. His wife's death has filled him with a sense of the randomness and meaninglessness of life events. Despite his anger and cynicism, he tries to get on with life on his farm, raising his asthmatic son Morgan (Rory Culkin) and his young daughter Bo (Abigail Breslin), who has a quirk about her drinking water. Also on the farm is his younger brother Merrill (Joaquin Phoenix), a former high school baseball star whose dream of the majors is over and who is now adrift. The family is distracted from their own concerns by the overnight appearance of strange crop circles in the cornfield. While at first Graham suspects a local troublemaker, soon there are reports of crop circles all over the world. As speculation spreads about the meaning of the worldwide phe-

several other critics gave positive reviews too. All this media acclaim is quite mystifying to me - I wondered if these fellows saw the same movie I did. Newsweek also heralded this film as a return to the quality of "The Sixth Sense," adding disparaging remarks about Shyamalan's previous film, "Unbreakable." While "Unbreakable" was not as good as his first film, I found it much closer to that break-out hit, in both style and quality, than this present effort. If "Signs" is any indicator, Mr. Spielberg has nothing to worry about.

Not that this is all bad news: much in the film is very good. But it is by no means on a par with some of Spielberg's best films. "Signs" is a well-acted, cleverly-directed film. The characters are appealing and convincing, and the attempt at a dimension of spirituality is refreshing. However, it grafts a spiritual message onto a plot that is essentially "Night of the Living Dead" set in "The War of the Worlds," with a dash of Hitchcock's "The Birds." Worst, the revelation at the end of the film is foreshadowed by hints as large and obvious as a pickup truck. Surprise was the key to the success of "The Sixth Sense" but there are no surprises here, despite Shyamalan's intentions. The spiritual element is not well integrated into the overarching plot, so they seem to be two movies - the paranoid one and the inspirational one.



Merrill Hess (Joaquin Phoenix, left) and his brother Graham (Mel Gibson, right) are changed forever after finding an intricate pattern of circles and lines in their crops in the thriller from writer-director M. Night Shyamalan, "Signs."

“Many of the scenes are cleverly framed and shot, without resorting to the easy tools of big-budget special effects for scares.”

The film has good points and bad points. The intention of the film, to make a popular film with some heart and some spiritual reflection is an admirable impulse in a world of popular films that are too often devoid of any deeper intention or only a shallow cliched pretense to greater meaning.

nomenon, spaceships appear in the sky over Earth. This film has received a great deal of media attention, including a big splashy story on the cover of Newsweek, proclaiming Shyamalan the new Spielberg. Their writers weren't alone in praising this film, as

erly framed and shot, without resorting to the easy tools of big-budget special effects for scares. The director goes for subtlety and suspense rather than over-the-top gory effects. This gives the film more of a grown-up tone than the average scary movie and also more tension than would be

achieved with a more conventional approach. Despite the fact that the film is scary, it is often funny too. Some of the humor is obviously intended, like the kids wearing tin foil caps that look like giant Hershey kisses to prevent aliens from reading their thoughts. Other scenes that draw a big audience laugh leave you wondering if the director really expected you to laugh at that point. The acting, especially by the children in the movie - Shyamalan seems to have a real gift for this - is excellent, unreservedly. Rory Culkin has a marked resemblance to his older brother, MacCauley, and it appears talent runs in the family. Likewise, Abigail is both charming and believable, delivering humorous lines like "There's a monster under my bed. Can I have a drink of water?" with utter conviction. Mel Gibson presents us with one of the best acting

jobs he's done in years and it is pure enjoyment to watch him work. Joaquin Phoenix's role as Gibson's brother is sensitive and compelling. The strength of the script is in its characters and dialog. The real problem with the film is the plot. While the characters and dialog are good, the plot is not. Shyamalan wrote as well as directed this movie. Like many new directors of recent years, he has said that he started directing in order to preserve the integrity of his scripts. In the case of this film, he should have stuck with the directing and left the script to someone else. The result is almost tragic. The intention of the film is good. The acting and casting are outstanding. The direction is wonderful. But the plot is such a muddled mish-mash, that all these good elements are sunk in the end. Its "Night of the

Living Dead/War of the Worlds" plot hardly meshes with the spiritual struggles of its protagonist. The tone of paranoia and xenophobia is straight out the era of the 1950s sci-fi horror B movie, in sharp contrast to other more recent movies with invading aliens, which are either hopeful or comic. "Signs" has some comic bits but it is by no means a comedy. This will be a "you love it or you hate it" film. Some people will like its great acting and stylish direction, or inspirational message. But others will be dismayed by its failure to build on its positives. Where the 1950s plot doesn't dampen your enjoyment, the obviousness of the foreshadowing completely ruins what is supposed to be a surprising turn at the end. Maybe if Shyamalan hires a scriptwriter, he can challenge Mr. Spielberg for his seat as top popular director. "Signs," however, is no threat.

The Tivoli Theater presents 'Summer & Midnight Movies'

Marquee Ramblings



CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
A&E Editor

I can't quite let go of summer. Even as classes start, I can't stop thinking about summer activities. I go swimming until the pools close. I stay outside if

the weather's not unbearably hot and when it is, I savor the AC and iced tea, knowing the reason for them will soon be gone. I eat tomatoes and avocados endlessly. And since I love films, I go to midnight movies. Ah, the midnight movie! What could be more summery? The midnight movies are often cult films, sometimes classics, sometimes foreign films, sometimes B movie-type guilty pleasures. They are always something you wouldn't otherwise see on a big screen. And this is how movies were made to be seen: on the big screen. The Tivoli Theater, that gem on the Delmar Loop, is still running its summer midnight movie series, Reel Late, to allow midnight movie fans to postpone the end of summer. Maybe it's the longer days of summer, maybe it's the delicious coolness after the hot day, maybe it's a collective memory of the era of the drive-in movie, but the draw of midnight movies is undeniable.

You have to go, even if it keeps you up too late. Fortunately, the midnight shows are only on Friday and Saturday night, so you won't miss any morning classes. Maybe you missed "The Princess Bride" and "Dr. Strangelove" earlier this summer but you can still see the darkly comic, edgy, indie film "Trainspotting" starring Ewan McGregor this month, or "Blue Velvet," that surreal work of director David Lynch, in September. Other films range from Japanese Anime "Metropolis" to the modern B movie "The Goonies" (a new print, director's cut, no less). If you stop by the Tivoli Theater in the Delmar Loop, you can pick up list of the remaining films and details on them. As summer heat lingers into September, the midnight series goes on luring in those who can't let go of summer (or can't pass up those cult films). Any remaining hint of summer is a good thing.

Missouri State Fair combines farm and amusement park

MICAH L. ISSITT
Staff Writer

Every year for the last one hundred years, around the end of the summer, the small town of Sedalia, Missouri becomes rampant with activity as it hosts the Missouri State Fair. This year from August 8-18, over 30,000 people made their way to the fairgrounds to enjoy food, music, games, and exhibits. This year marked the centennial anniversary of the Missouri State Fair. The Sedalia Fairgrounds boasts some 390+ acres of exhibit area, making it one of the largest ten-day fairs in the country. By August 8 the fairground was filled with carnival rides, games, animal exhibits like petting zoos, and dog shows, and auditoriums with rodeos and visits from musical artists, including country stars Toby Keith and Kenny Chesney, and rock acts REO Speedwagon and Styx. The fair seems a bit like "the farm meets the carnival." In the center of the fairgrounds, the "midway," there are dozens of booths hosting carnival-style games and amusement park rides, while at the edges and corners of the fairground there are animal and farm equipment displays. Local talent can try out for numerous contests that award ribbons for everything from "best dairy cow" to "best wedding cake decoration." Visitors can view original art from hundreds of amateur and professional artists. They can also witness distinctively rural activities such as the competition for "pig racing," after

which the speediest pig is rewarded with an "oreo" while the pig's owner is given a small monetary prize and a blue ribbon, as well as obvious bragging rights. If you ever go to the fair, be sure to bring plenty of money. The entrance fee is only \$6 per person, but the games and rides often cost \$5 and one will not be able to walk the fairground without finding something that needs to be purchased. Hundreds of purveyors set up booths to sell their wares, which range from fake gold jewelry and imitation name-brand sunglasses, to mobile homes. Another popular attraction at the fair is the food. Visitors can get funnel cakes, biscuits and gravy, steak dinners, or authentic Mexican foods. Some of the booths offered more unusual selections such as the jumbo turkey legs, which are at least 18 inches long and contain about 3/4 pound of meat. Also popular are the "yards of beer," containing about 2 pints of beer in barbell-shaped plastic glasses. Fair activities begin in the early morning and go until around 11 p.m. At the end of the night they shoot off a fireworks display almost as impressive as the Fourth of July at Fair St. Louis. For more information on the fair, visit their website at www.mostate-fair.com. The web site is updated year-round. Whether you are a fan of country music, tractor pulls, or the distinctive sales pitches of carnival folks, there is a little something special for you at the Missouri State Fair.



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A&E
Calendar
Movies

- August
23
Undisputed—boxing film with Wesley Snipes
Serving Sara—romantic comedy with Elizabeth Hurley
They—horror film about fear of the dark
Me without You—indie film about possessive friendship
Metropolis (new anime version)—Tivoli midnight series (Aug. 23, 24, noon 25th, only)
Trainspotting—Tivoli midnight series (Aug. 23, 24, 30 & Sept. 1 only)
30
One Hour Photo—thriller with Robin Williams
Possession—literary romance with Gwyneth Paltrow
Slap Her, She's French—comedy about Parisian girl in Texas high school
Gangster No. 1—indie film '60s London gangsters
The Goonies (director's cut)—Tivoli midnight series (Aug. 30, Sept. 1, 6 & 7 only)
September
6
Swifan—thriller in style of "Fatal Attraction"
Happy Times—Chinese language comedy, directed by legendary Zhang Yimou
Flesh Gordon—Tivoli midnight series (Sept. 6, 7, 13 & 14 only)

School of optometry appoints new Dean

MICHELLE ELKINS
Staff Writer

Well-seasoned to the UM-St. Louis campus, new dean appointee Dr. Larry Davis is humbled by the opportunity to serve the school of optometry in this capacity. A facul-



Dr. Larry Davis

ty member since 1993, Davis served as associate professor of optometry, acting dean and interim dean since April 2000, in place of former dean Dr. Jack Bennett who passed away in May of 2000. Davis's appointment became effective July 15.

"Leadership requires a diverse and large set of intangible skills; my appointment as dean affirms that the collective accomplishments over the past two years are recognized and valued by the campus administration and professional colleagues at the local, national and state levels," Davis said.

Under Davis's leadership, plans are to take steps to strive for excellence in teaching, research, patient care and services.

"Students of the school of optometry are an outstanding group who receive an excellent and comprehensive education that prepares them for the options that await them upon graduation," Davis said.

The faculty, staff and administration completed a comprehensive self-study that included developing a new strategic outcome assessment plan and a revision of the school's administrative structure, process and procedures.

"We will take the necessary steps to pursue continuous improvements," Davis said.

Following a successful visit, the Council on Optometric Education extended an unconditional accreditation to the school through November 2008. The accreditation means the school has met the council's standards of educational effectiveness showing a commitment to

quality, assessment and improvement.

Davis earned his degree in optometry from Indiana University in 1987 and completed his residency at UM-St. Louis in 1988. Before joining UM-St. Louis, Davis was an assistant professor of ophthalmology

'Under Davis's leadership, plans are to take steps to strive for excellence in teaching, research, patient care and services.'

at St. Louis University School of Medicine.

Davis is an active member of many professional organizations such as the American Academy of Optometry and the Missouri Optometric Association, and he has served as president of the Saint Louis Optometric Society.

Davis's awards include UM-St. Louis Outstanding Optometric Educator of the Year and the Saint Louis Optometric Society's 2002 distinguished Optometrist of the Year.

GAME REVIEW

We can be heroes, sorta

CHARLIE BRIGHT
Staff Writer

This game is an affront to humankind. The box claims that "Heroes of Might and Magic IV" is "one of the most brilliant strategy game designs ever conceived." This is true if one replaces "brilliant" with "mind-numbing" and "conceived" with "regurgitated."

I remember in 1996 when the first "Heroes" game came out. It was revolutionary, creating a new genre that melded real-time strategy with older, turn-based resource management games like "Civilization." "Heroes II" allowed unit upgrades (for a cost) and new hero types. "Heroes III" offered many new heroes, new magic types, and multiple creature upgrades. In this spectacular failure of common sense, "Heroes IV" loses every positive thing to come with the other sequels, and tops off the list by getting new computer based (rather than artist-created) graphics that are stunningly inferior to previous incarnations.

The game makes up for this by creating a new system of hero advancement, in which a player may advance the heroes on one of two paths. Sadly, the two paths are chosen at random and the really cool classes are virtually impossible to attain, except through dumb luck. This is actually a touch more hopeful-sounding than it should be, as I'm not certain that the "cool" classes are any better than the regular crappy ones, because my character

was always stuck with choices like "scouting" and "yet more scouting" rather than "soul-devouring" or "improved death magic."

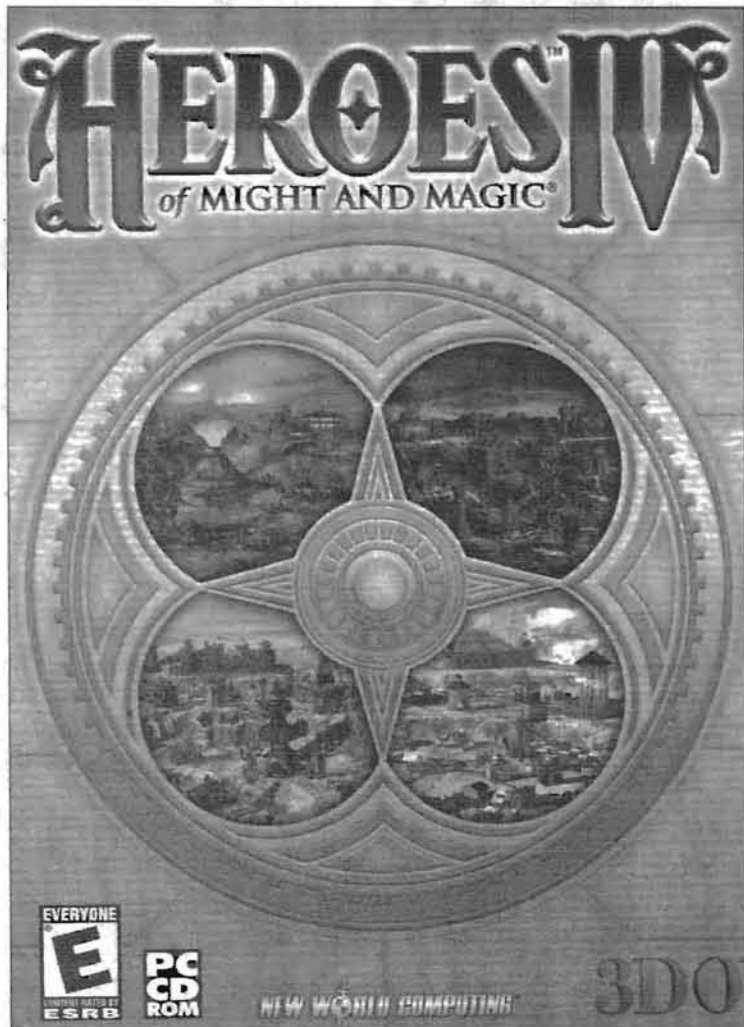
This is heralded as a fantasy game, and indeed it is. As you play it, your mind will wander on fantasies in which you are having your impacted wisdom teeth pulled by a sadistic dentist with rusty farm tools. Strangely, you will prefer these fantasies to actually playing "Heroes IV."

Among its other problems are an uninspired soundtrack, a surprising lack of graphic variety, and weak dragons. This last part is a major problem for a fantasy game, which got its start on fire-breathing demigods that are supposed to inspire fear and awe. I don't like the idea of hordes of peasants attacking dragons and winning, as it defeats the whole mystique of those serpentine overlords.

Someone at 3DO (the company responsible for this atrocity) obviously confused "new" and "better." The same person probably also decided that playtesting would best be carried out by lobotomized lab-monkeys, and that painful, game crashing bugs would add character.

In coming weeks I will be reviewing games that are actually worth purchasing (notably "Freedom Force" and "Jedi Knight II"), but for now, it's enough for me to make this public service announcement that may save you \$49.95.

For game comments, hints, or suggestions, email me at charliesadvice@hotmail.com.



BOOK REVIEW

Book gives pocket-sized advice

BY SARA PORTER
Senior Writer

There are three major types of travel books. The first is the kind that gives practical advice, where to get your passport, what troubles to avoid, how to contact the local embassy, etc. The second type of travel book is a memoir based on the author's own experiences, where they went, who they met, and, maybe, what they learned. The third is a combination of both, where travel experiences are used to give advice.

Bruce Northam's "Globetrotter Dogma" tries to give both personal experience and advice. While he succeeds on the former level, he slightly errs on the latter. But, that's not a bad thing. Instead "Globetrotter" eschews the practical advice for the more inspirational advice based on Northam's experiences traveling around the world.

In the book, Northam uses one hundred personal experiences to give advice on changing traveler's perspectives about themselves, a sort of "Life's Little Instruction Book" gone global.

The author uses an encounter with a Japanese woman in which the two just stared at each other for a few

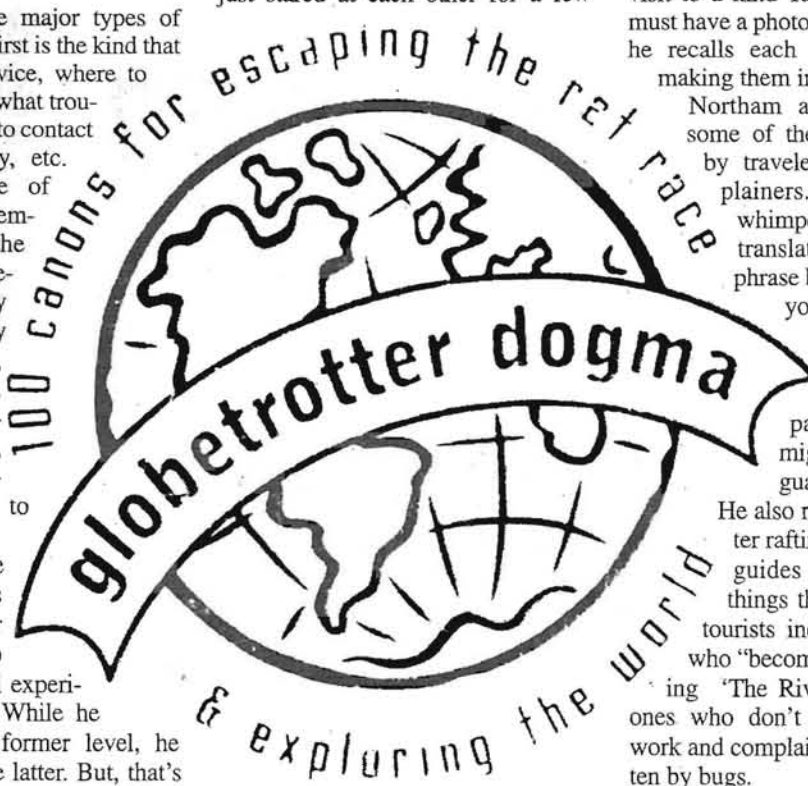
the Irish coast, an exhaustive three hour bus ride in Nicaragua, and a visit to a kind Tai couple. Northam must have a photographic memory as he recalls each travel experience, making them into one deft book.

Northam also zeroes in on some of the "attitudes" taken by travelers. He tells complainers, "if you must whimper, break out your translation dictionary or phrase book and transcribe your conundrum to a local. You may realize your dilemma is a tad pathetic-and you might learn the language."

He also refers to a whitewater rafting trip in which the guides explain the top things that they hate about tourists including the people who "become experts after seeing 'The River Wild'" and the ones who don't contribute to any work and complain about getting bitten by bugs.

Many travelers might be reluctant to find themselves described in this book.

"Globetrotter Dogma" is small book, about the size of a passport, which a reader could fit in their purse or bag. They could read it while on a journey or just open it up and have a vicarious travel experience from someone who has been there and back.



minutes to prove the point "silence is golden." Northam describes a trip to a Welsh cemetery to illustrate "remember everything you see." Northam is the type of writer that can turn anything, even a territorial battle with howler monkeys, into a learning experience.

Northam's strongest asset lies in his description. Through his words, the reader experiences hikes through

MUSIC REVIEW

The Vines' 'Highly Evolved' takes music style to the next level

BY MIKE SHERWIN
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what kind of offspring might have been produced had the Beatles' White Album and Nirvana's Nevermind had relations? Perhaps you do not waste your time in meaningless musical hypotheticals, but if you'd care to find out, check out the Vines' debut album Highly Evolved. Released in July, the Vines have already found considerable acclaim in Britain, and the buzz in the States is growing, and for good reason. Following the trend of signing young, unknown garage-rock bands, Capitol has hit gold with the Vines. Where the Strokes, the White Stripes and the Hives have trailblazed, finding favor with fans and critics with raw, low-prentense rock 'n' roll, the Vines carry the torch forward with circumspect lyrics and musical depth absent in earlier efforts.

The band centers on the songwriting talents of singer/guitarist Craig Nicholls, whose obsessive attention to detail turned a slated six-week recording session into a six-month marathon. Nicholls, whose previous recording experience was limited to a four-track analog machine set up in his bedroom, received the help of seasoned produc-

er Rob Schnapf (whose credits include albums by Beck, Elliot Smith, the Foo Fighters, and Guided by Voices). Together, Schnapf and the Vines have crafted a twelve-track tour de force that careens from softly-introspective acoustic numbers like "Autumn Shade" to more severe, angst-driven tracks with heavily distorted guitar riffs and throaty growls. Don't let me

'When the tempo slows, the Vines are more able to showcase their musical complexity, and adeptness at layering vocal harmonies.'

mislead you, this is not your father's grunge band: the Vines start where Nirvana left off, incorporating grunge with the melodic sensibilities of late 60's rock, and occasionally veering into early punk a la the Stooges.

The title track, a top 40 hit in the UK, is representative of the more aggressive tracks: short, grungy, and extremely catchy, with thankfully ironic lyrics that make the downcast

themes of isolation and disillusionment a bit more palatable: "I'm feeling happy/So highly evolved/My time's a riddle that will never be solved. If you feel low/You can buy love/from a pay phone." Songs like "Outthaway" and "Get Free" maintain the intensity of the album, thanks in large part to the driving beats of drummer Hamish Rossner, and provide a deep contrast to the slower, more melodic tracks.

When the tempo slows, the Vines are more able to showcase their musical complexity, and adeptness at layering vocal harmonies. With multi-tracked vocals and the help of bassist/background singer Patrick Matthews, the Vines tie rock present and rock past together in a successfully fluid and organic fashion. "Homesick" illustrates this perfectly, with a simple piano line, acoustic guitar and sweet-as-honey vocals. The result is a wonderfully dreamy homage that sounds straight off of "Let It Be," while managing to avoid sounding cliched.

Unfortunately, the Vines already came through St. Louis on their tour in support of Highly Evolved. Let us hope that they return sooner than later, for this is a band with extraordinary potential.



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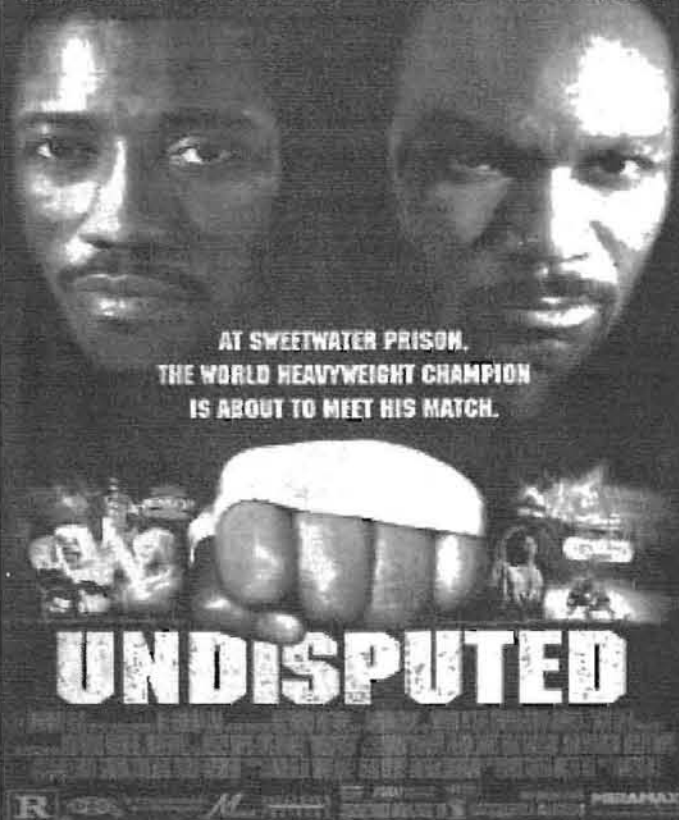
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OPENS IN THEATERS ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 23!

SPORTS

Former UMSL players, an UMSL student, a step closer to 'the show'

BY HANK BURNS
Sports Editor

For many college athletes these days, it has become evident that one way to get their foot in the big league door has been by playing ball for a team in the independent minor leagues — leagues that are not affiliated with any major professional league.

Two former UM-St. Louis baseball standouts, outfielder Brody Jackson and second baseman Bryan Beckmann, have made their way to the independent River City Rascals, in hopes of someday making their way up to a Major League Baseball-affiliated team and then to the Major Leagues. They are joined by shortstop Kevin Lucas, a UM-St. Louis student, who did not play ball for the Rivermen.

Currently, the Rascals are one of two independent teams in the St. Louis area — the Gateway Grizzlies in Sauget, Ill. being the other — that are a part of the independent Class-A Frontier League. According to Jackson, who hit .359 with 8 home-runs, 33 runs batted in and 18 stolen bases for the 2002 Rivermen, competition is at a much higher level in Class-A than in NCAA Division II ball.

"You've got your guys that are pretty outstanding, that should have a chance to play with affiliated ball, but are maybe getting overlooked or maybe next year they'll get a chance," Jackson said. "I'd say this is a lot more competitive; a lot more players who I'd say overall are a lot better."

Beckmann concurred with Jackson.

"A lot of these guys are coming from college, so instead of seeing one good guy every week, you're seeing a good guy everyday," Beckmann said.

So far, Beckmann, Jackson and Lucas have each been able to keep up with the level of competition they face with the Rascals. Beckmann is currently hitting .281 for the Rascals with a .358 on base percentage, 4 homeruns and 26 RBI. Jackson is hitting .313 with 15 homeruns, 37 RBI, 64 runs scored and 31 stolen bases. Lucas has a .302 average, a team-high 88 hits and 15 stolen bases.

"I didn't expect to do this good," Jackson said. "...I'm usually a one or two [in the line-up] hitter. I've been hitting actually the last couple weeks fourth for these guys and I hit third before that, started off hitting one or two. I feel like my role kind of hasn't changed, but it kind of has, because I think sometimes they expect a home-run or expect a certain situation. I don't know if I'm that guy that really is expected to hit it, but sometimes I do and I kind of surprise myself sometimes."

Beckmann is pleased with the success he has had with the Rascals.

"I enjoy it," Beckmann said. "I work pretty hard for what I've got. I wish I could play a little more, but it's fun. It's a blast playing in front of all these fans...It's a dream to play professional ball, but I would like to take it a step further."

Rascals Manager Niel Fiala is pleased with each player's performance this season.

"Brody's had a great year," Fiala said. "He's in the top leaders and top

five in both homeruns and in stolen bases, runs scored and slugging percentage. He's had an outstanding season."

"Bryan Beckman did very well early. Lately, he's been battling for some playing time, but he's done a good job for us this year in the different roles that he's had. Of course, Kevin Lucas has been our shortstop for all season long and has had a very good year, hitting-wise."

According to Fiala, a former big-league prospect, moderate success in with a team like the Rascals does not necessarily translate into a ticket to the big leagues.

"It's one of those things that's so hard to tell, because a lot of times it's people's needs," Fiala said. "Brody's probably the best prospect of the three for getting a chance, anyway. He's just out of college. The other two have been out of college for a year or two and sometimes they look for those guys right out of college."

So far, the adjustment from college life to the life of a pro-ball player has been relatively easy for Beckmann, Jackson and Lucas.

"I would say the biggest difference is playing everyday," Beckmann said. "In college, you play three or four times a week and it's a little tougher to get ready for everyday. You gotta be prepared. You can't go out at night too late. Basically, that's the difference — 60 games over a longer span and 84 games over a shorter span. That's probably the difference."

Looking back at his days with the Rivermen, Jackson feels that his adjustment from college to minor



UM-St. Louis student Kevin Lucas, left, and former Rivermen baseball star Bryan Beckmann, right, take infield practice before their game as River City Rascals on Aug. 16.

Hank Burns/The Current

league ball is much better than his adjustment from junior college ball to NCAA ball. He thinks that he should have performed at the level he is with the Rascals.

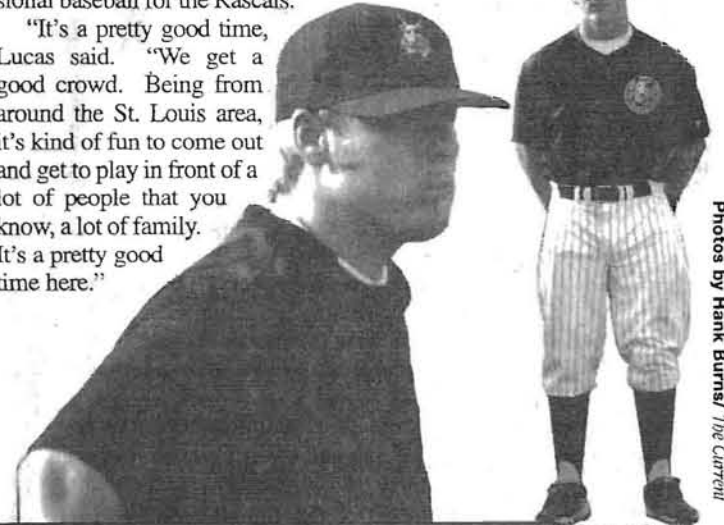
"My first year, I was kind of disappointed," Jackson said. "It was my first year with wood bats. I didn't know our conference is wood bat...My numbers were down. Then, my senior year was a lot better, obviously. I think I got used to the wood bat."

"All the numbers pretty much went up. I wouldn't say it was real disappointing, but I expected to do a lot better than what I did. I think this year, with the Rascals, I expect more like this out of myself, what I should've had at UMSL."

Lucas, who is in his third season

with the Rascals, has adjusted almost as well to minor league ball as Jackson and enjoys being able to play professional baseball for the Rascals.

"It's a pretty good time, Lucas said. "We get a good crowd. Being from around the St. Louis area, it's kind of fun to come out and get to play in front of a lot of people that you know, a lot of family. It's a pretty good time here."



Photos by Hank Burns/The Current

Above left: UM-St. Louis student Kevin Lucas

Above right: Former UM-St. Louis baseball standout Brody Jackson

Left: Former UM-St. Louis baseball standout Bryan Beckmann

UM-St. Louis student and River City Rascals shortstop Kevin Lucas takes infield practice before his Aug. 16 game.



Hank Burns/The Current

ATTN: SGA REPS

Mandatory first meeting

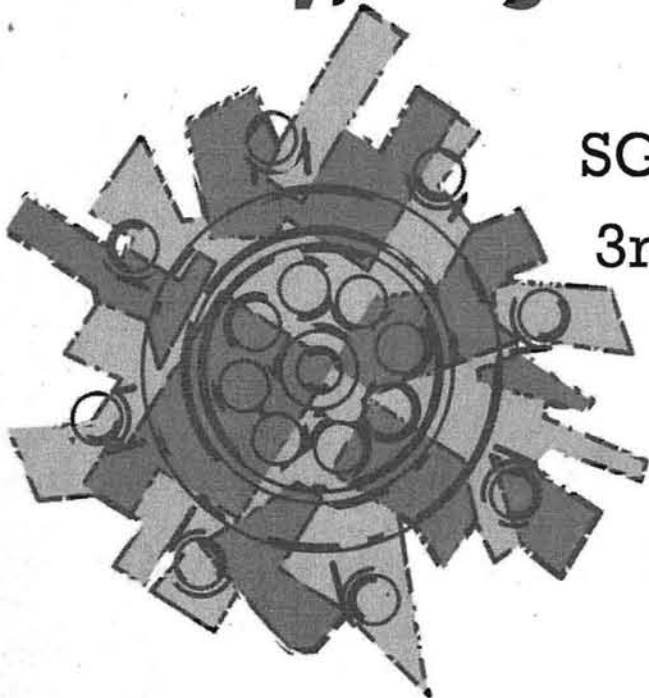
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The end of an epoch SGA wasted no time over the summer

The international scientific and intellectual communities suffered a heavy loss on Monday May 20, 2002, with the death of renowned paleontologist and science writer Steven Jay Gould. The 60-year-old Harvard professor died at his home in SoHo after fighting a 20-year bat-



BY MICAH L. ISSITT
Science Columnist

tle against the rare and deadly cancer "abdominal mesothelioma," usually associated with exposure to asbestos.

Gould was one of a handful of rare scientists who crossed the line between academic credibility and pop-culture recognition. He was both famous and infamous among scientists and laypeople for his energetic, creative and ingenious evolutionary insights and his ability to make complex subjects accessible to the general public.

Among the scientific community, Gould was a figure of imposing stature. A Harvard professor since the age of 26, Gould had been professor of Zoology and Paleontology at Harvard, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and per-

haps the best-known evolutionary theorist since Charles Darwin.

Gould's theories sparked intense debate and laid the groundwork for new avenues of study. Among his most interesting theoretical developments was the exposition, along with fellow theorist Niles Eldridge, of the idea of "punctuated equilibrium," the theory that evolution follows patterns of rapid, rather than gradual, change. This theory in particular sparked sometimes fierce debate within the evolutionary community.

Outside of the academic community, Gould achieved a level of fame that is almost alien to a scientist. He earned the pop honor of being featured in an episode of the "Simpsons," and the renovations of his Manhattan loft were featured in an issue of Architectural Digest.

Professor Gould was also beloved worldwide for his ability to write about science in a unique and accessible way that allowed non-scientists to enjoy and understand

'... Gould made a significant stride toward changing the way that science and intellectual activities are viewed.'

some of the most complicated ideas and debates of the twentieth century.

Gould began writing essays for the popular science magazine Natural History in 1974, and over the course of his life he wrote 300 feature articles covering every conceivable topic, from stamp collecting to baseball to the beginning of life on earth. Many of Gould's essays were compiled into best-selling books, such as the popular Bully for Brontosaurus.

Gould's essays are not only an exploration of scientific thought but also stand out as a prime example of excellence in writing. Using the structure and arrangement of his essays, Gould drew readers in with interesting details and then slowly developed a main theme which, by the end of the essay, introduced readers to a profound intellectual idea. Gould was a subtle craftsman with his writing, utilizing facts from popular culture, such as baseball statistics or artistic styles, to illustrate points about geology, evolution and science as a whole.

Through his approach to science and his many popular writings, Gould made a significant stride toward changing the way that science and intellectual activities are viewed. He believed passionately that scientists had come to be viewed in a very two-dimensional way, as the lab-coated, bespectacled figures of Gary Larson's "the Far Side," instead of as interesting and passionate figures of exploration and discovery.

Gould summed up his feelings about science marvelously in a quote from his book Ever Since Darwin: "Science is not the heartless pursuit of objective information. It is a creative activity, its geniuses act more as artists than as information processors."

Stephen Jay Gould was certainly an artist. His death marks the end of an epoch of scientific history and is a great loss to both the academic community and to readers and thinkers worldwide. Fortunately, Gould's intellectual prowess, along with his wit and skill, will remain in the large body of work he has left behind. His works will no doubt continue to stimulate new debates and new ideas well into the future.

UM-St. Louis Student Government Press Release

ST. LOUIS - The 2002-2003 UM-St. Louis Student Government Association has wasted no time over the summer, meeting with top University officials and Curators, as well as forming relationships with other St. Louis-area SGA's, including Saint Louis University and Washington University.

In July, the newly elected officials attended the Board of Curators meeting in Columbia, meeting with the members of the Board and establishing connections with Curators Malika Horn and Connie Silverstein, both of whom are UM-St. Louis alumni.

"By getting to know the members of the Board of Curators, we are hoping to get a deeper understanding of how the System works. Ultimately, we can use this knowledge to better protect the needs of the students here at UM-St. Louis," President Sam Andemariam said.

During the Board of Curators meeting, Andemariam and his Vice-President Robert Clarke further solid-

ified close ties with the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) by agreeing to co-sponsor a voter registration campaign.

'As a state school, it is in our best interest to have as much influence in Jefferson City as possible.'

"As a state school, it is in our best interest to have as much influence in Jefferson City as possible. ASUM has proven to be a key ally in finding that influence," Andemariam said.

Also in July, a Steering Committee meeting was held to get the SGA on task. Items discussed at the meeting included

- Fall meetings schedule
- Implementation of the R.A.R.E platform
- Early discussions about Homecoming Committee

•Early discussion about Election Committee

In addition, some campus-wide policy changes were announced, including a 24-hour Visitation Policy in the dormitories for the 2002-2003 school year and a formal Rush policy for the UM-St. Louis male fraternities. The University, with the full support of the SGA, adopted both of these policies.

In an effort to keep the UM-St. Louis student body informed about their campus, the SGA has formed a partnership with University Vice-Chancellors and administrators that have been charged with designing an electronic newsletter to update students about events on campus.

The SGA and UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche Touhill have started a working partnership, as Touhill has formally invited the SGA to join both the Chancellor's Cabinet and the Budget and Planning Committee.

"I look forward to working with the Chancellor and the other administrators. This administration is prepared to make this school year a productive and dynamic one," Andemariam said.

FRATERNITIES, from page 3

"In a formal rush there is less partying and more quality activities. You also get more quality guys this way, and guys that are interested in the fraternity more than the parties," claimed Sigma Pi Rush Chairman Dave Powers.

On Tuesday, August 27, there will be an informational day held in two of the Century Rooms on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. Both fraternities

will have a room with informational tables set up and registration forms available. House tours will be given on Wednesday. There will be foosball, darts and pizza on Thursday and parties over the weekend. The week ends with a Bid Day on Sunday where prospective members will choose the fraternity they would like to join and the fraternity, in turn, will choose the men they want for their

organization.

"I think that the establishment of a formal rush is a symbol of UM-St. Louis's transition from a commuter campus to a more social campus. The Greek system is going to grow with UM-St. Louis, as UM-St. Louis has, and is growing as a social campus," Post said.

Sororities on campus have had formal rushes since they began at UM-St. Louis.

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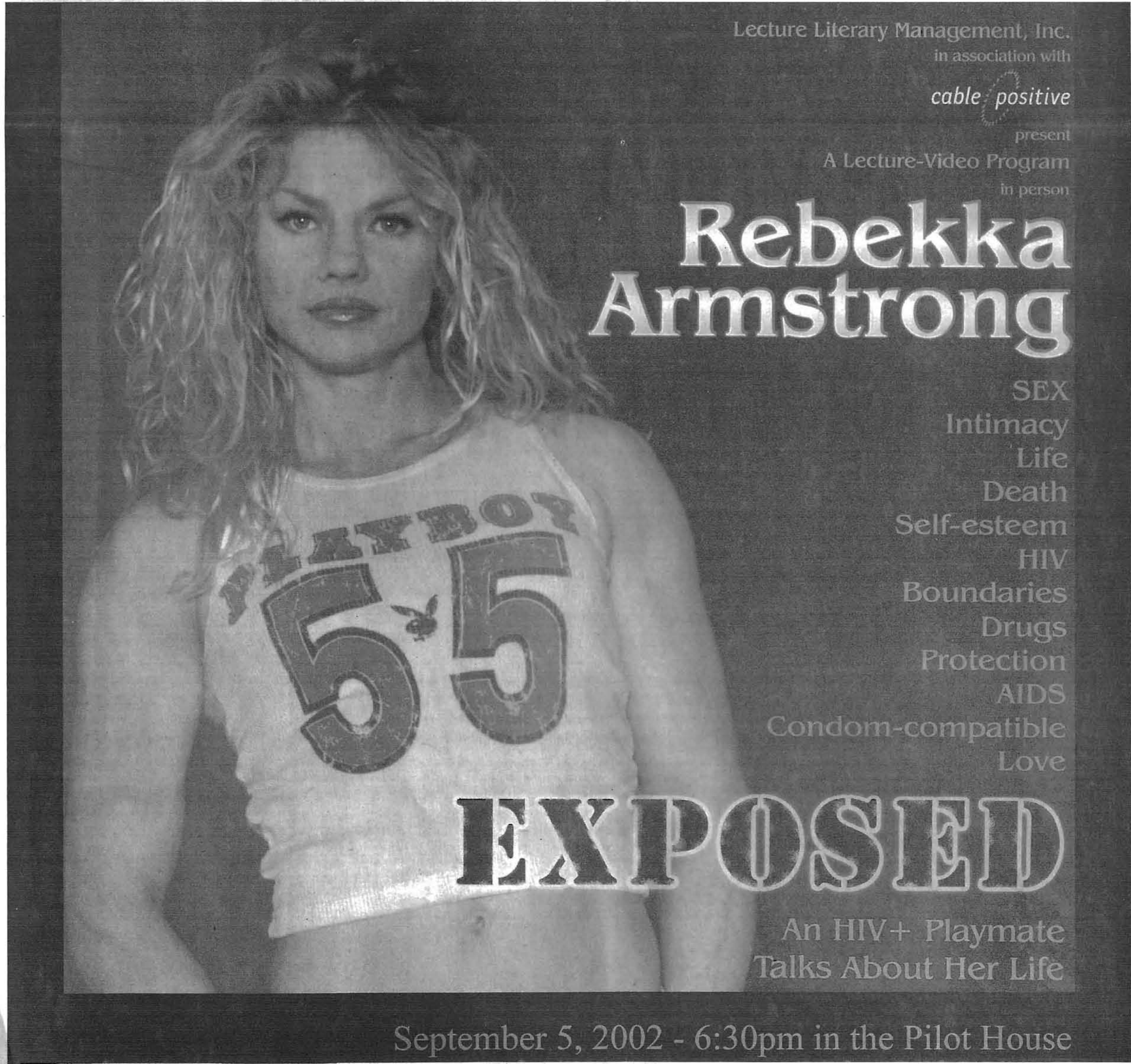
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Point / Counterpoint

From the left

BY MICHAEL RANKINS
Guest Columnist

POLITICAL COMMENTARY

As a new academic year begins at UM-St. Louis, I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome to both new and returning students. For those of us who spent most of our summer in the St. Louis area, "warm" is a word with which we have become all too familiar. As we sweltered, we were far from alone; it was warmer than normal nearly everywhere this summer. The National Climatic Data Center recently reported that the average temperature in July for the 48 contiguous United States was 76.4 degrees Fahrenheit, 2.2 degrees above average for that period 1895-2001. While this was the fifth warmest July on record for the U.S. since 1895, worldwide average temperatures were even further above average. July temperatures for the combined land and ocean surfaces of the Earth were nearly one degree Fahrenheit above the average of 1880-2001, making this July the second warmest in modern history. The warmest globally averaged temperatures ever in July occurred only four years ago, during another Pacific El Nino.

The NCDC also reported that nearly half of the 48 contiguous states were currently affected by moderate to extreme drought conditions. The previous year has contained the driest August-July on record in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Colorado and Wyoming. In some western states, drought conditions have persisted since 1998. A.G. Edwards, a major broker in agricultural futures, has predicted that this year's corn harvest yield will be significantly below average. The Agricultural Department has predicted that soybean and cotton yields will be 9% below 2001 harvests, while wheat harvests will fall by about 14%. Although the precise economic implications of these numbers currently remains unclear, it hardly takes Einstein to know that these numbers are far from good news for consumers, or for the environment.

A seemingly endless number of researchers have recently issued dismal

warnings regarding worldwide environmental issues. Dr. Oliver Phillips of Leeds University, England, has reported that the proliferation of woody vines in the Amazon basin (think 'Tarzan') has increased annually by 1.7 to 4.6%, in recent years. Because these vines grow far more quickly than large trees, a greater concentration of carbon dioxide seems a likely culprit in the increasing "dominance" of woody vines over canopy hosts. For those of us who are not biology majors, this simply means that upon introduction to the fertilizing effects of higher carbon dioxide levels, the vines can do much more growing in a shorter period of time than the trees. The vines then begin strangling the trees to death. To date, Dr. Phillip's study is one of the clearest indicators of climatic change within virgin rain forests. Combined with a recent NASA study, which indicated that phytoplankton in the oceans have decreased by as much as 30% in parts of the Northern Pacific, possibly due to higher sea water temperatures, these reports seem to bode poorly with regard to overall environmental conditions.

As these reports come on the heels of satellite images clearly showing depletion of the ozone layer, the melting of ancient ice in Antarctica and the increasing formation of a vast, two-mile thick cloud of toxic pollution over Southeast Asia, it would seem impossible for anyone to deny the importance of environmental issues. Unfortunately, considerable resistance to placing environmental issues high on local, state and federal agendas remains. While some progress seems to have taken place, there remains a tendency to utilize environmental issues as political leverage. Regrettably, it seems likely that as politicians gear up for the campaign trail, the environment is poised yet again to become a popular political football.

I wonder if, when we are sandbagging the White House to protect it from coastal flooding, anyone is really going to care whether the President inside is a Democrat or a Republican. Probably not...but by then it will be a bit late for a sincere, bipartisan effort to protect the environment.

From the right

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Mike Sherwin / The Current

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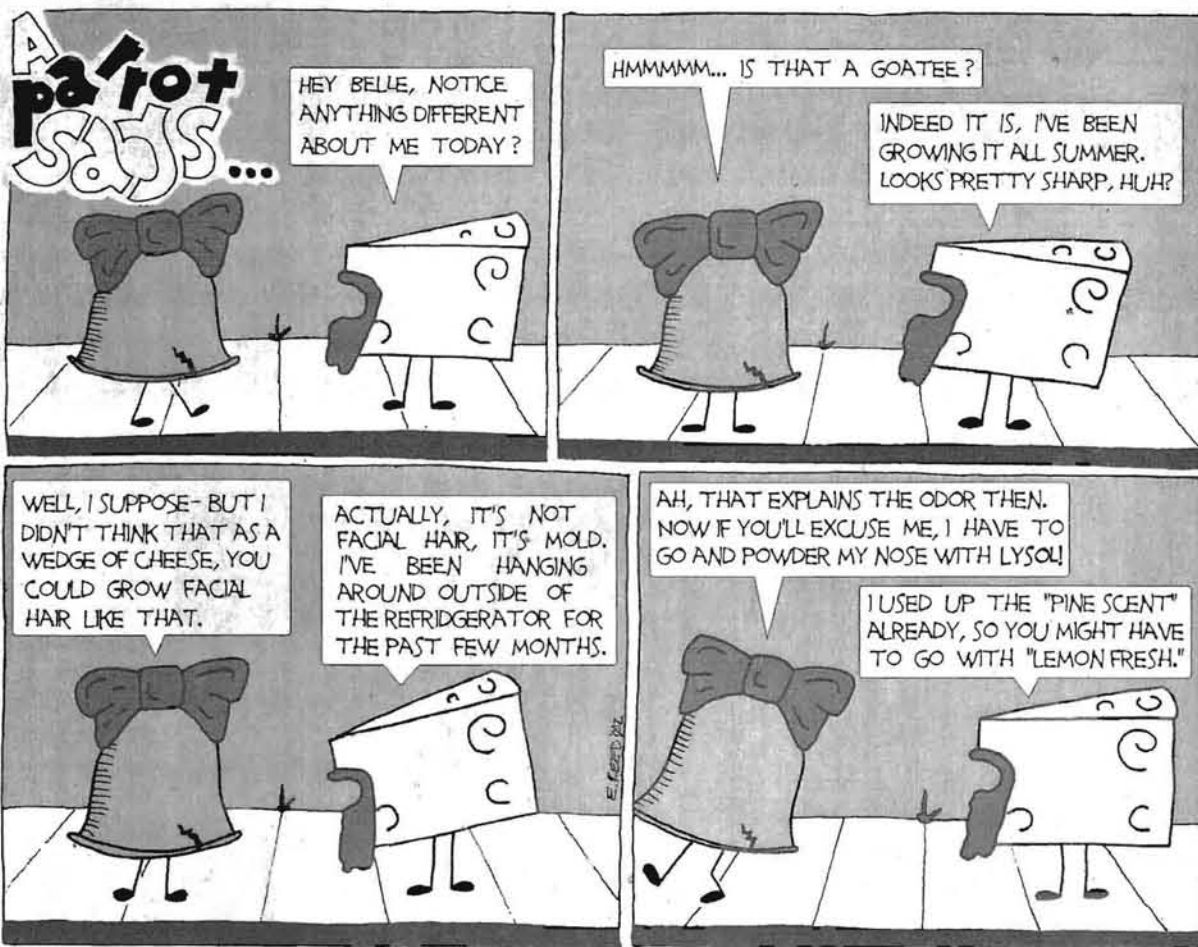
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Center grows, faculty shrinks



The Director of the Performing Arts Center Bryan Rives was fired over the summer due to the state budget cuts. Rives last day at UM-St. Louis is August 31. The Center is currently under construction and slated to open sometime next fall though no opening date has been specified.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

ANNE BAUER
Managing Editor

August 31 will be Director of the new Performing Arts Center Bryan Rives' s last day at UM-St. Louis.

Rives, who was hired in January, was fired over the summer; his termination is one of several cost-cutting methods of UM-St. Louis to be implemented by the spring.

"I worry whether the Center can truly open and how it will be funded in the future," Rives said.

Bob Samples, Director of University Communications, said the Center is just one of the many areas to be cut back in the next six months.

In an attempt to decrease costs, the University is currently seeking outside management of the Center. A firm is expected to be in place to

manage the Center this September, Samples said.

The building is slated to open sometime next fall, though no date has been set.

"With a firm in place, we will then be able to work on an opening schedule," Samples said.

According to Rives, at the end of this coming January or the beginning of February, the building should be in the "substantial completion" phase, meaning that the outside of the building will be finished and the process of completing the inside of the building will then begin.

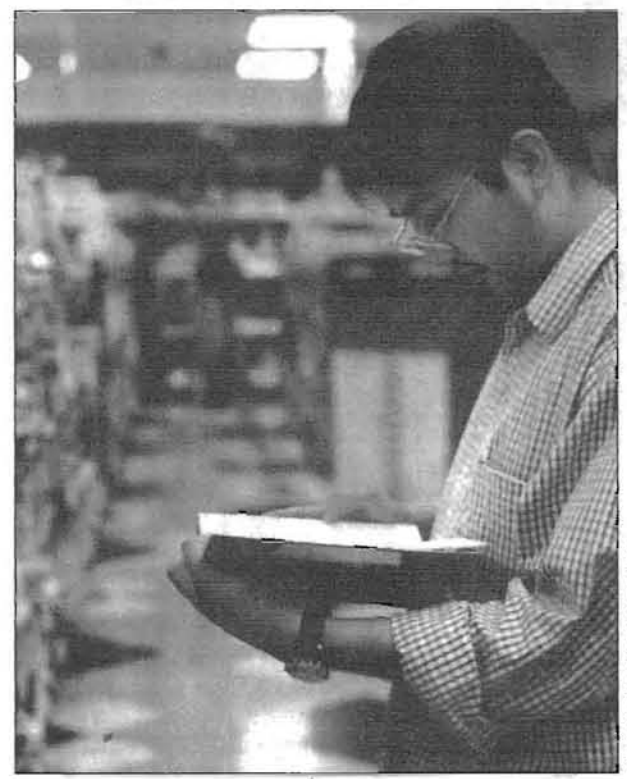
The \$52 million center will include two performance spaces: a black box theatre and a concert theatre.

Upon leaving UM-St. Louis, Rives will assume responsibility as the new Director of Whiting Auditorium in Flint, Michigan.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

UMSL students prepare for fall semester at the bookstore



Senior Fernando Solano checks out the textbooks for his upcoming semester at the bookstore.

Mike Sherwin/The Current

UM-St. Louis Bookstore hours

Monday and Tuesday	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

LIFE, from page 1

Cory Kinman, a sophomore, learned the hard way what it takes to succeed in college.

"Everything requires a sacrifice," Kinman says. "You have to sacrifice things on a weekly basis. To succeed at anything, something has to be compromised."

After a while, when you've gotten into a habitual routine of studying, you'll be amazed at how much you can find solace in it. It may sound inconceivable—especially to those who party hard—that you can get enjoyment out of studying, but eventually you may come to look at it as a comforting, unwinding sort of end to the day.

Sometimes it's beneficial to study with your friends, especially if they share a class with you. This gives you a chance to get support from them when you are in question of a particu-

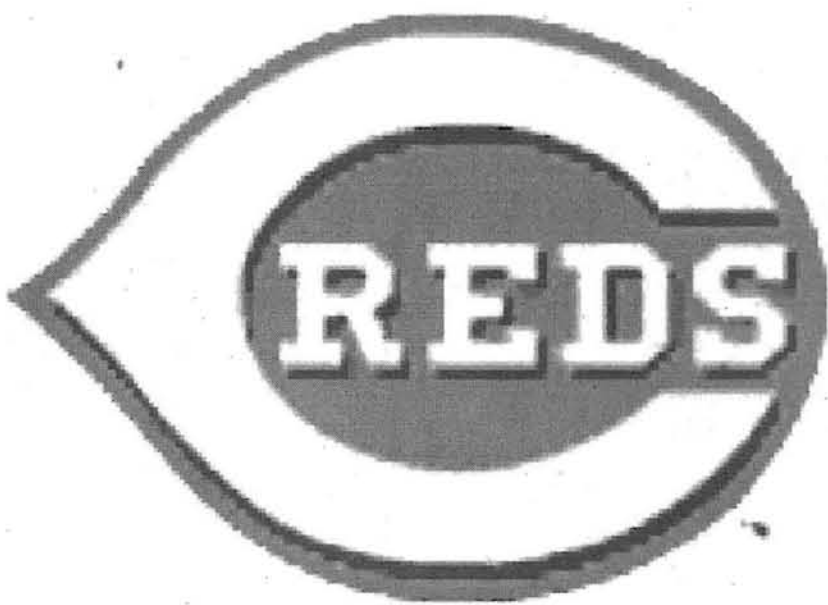
lar subject and vice versa, strengthening both of your studying. It's also nice to have friends to study with because you can chat with them for a while when you need a break.

"Go out with your friends to somewhere like Village Inn and study together," advises junior Melissa Harvey. "Take classes that your friends have. That way you can go out together and study and you're hanging out at the same time."

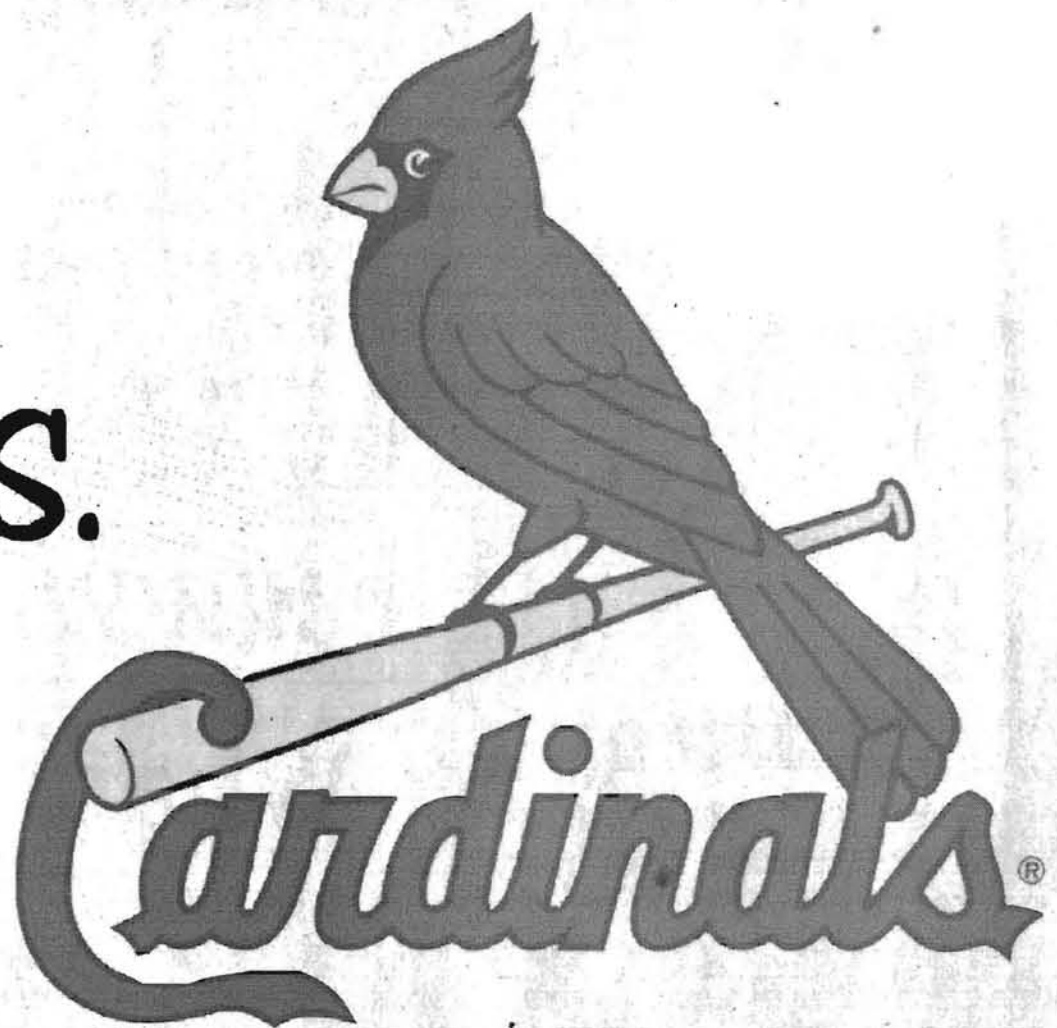
No matter what your previous work ethic was before you came to college, you will notice a difference between high school and college.

You can mold your future any way you want, but the clay you use gets tougher and more solidified as time goes on. Try not to get stuck in the future wishing you could have changed the past.

University Program Board Presents College Night at Busch Stadium



VS.



Tuesday, September 3 - 7:10 p.m. at Busch Stadium - Tickets only \$5.00 in the Student Activities Office (Limit 2 per Student ID)